



FISHERTON PRIMARY & EYC

NEWSLETTER Term 2



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few week's till Christmas it is hard to believe how quickly the session has gone. The Christmas tree and decorations are up and the calendars are opening as children count down to the festivities ahead for some families who celebrate Christmas. It has been an enjoyable couple of terms, but continues to be challenging in a number of ways due to the current situation. Sadly, we are not yet at a point where we can return fully to the normal things we enjoy so much in Fisherton.

Thank you all for your fundraising contributions!

Go Purple Fundraising

We were delighted to support the amazing work done at the Ayrshire Hospice, by organising our Go Purple Day. We collected **£51.02** for the Ayrshire Hospice and were thrilled to meet Agent H when he came to collect the donations.



We also raised **£45.00** for Children in need. Well done Everyone!

Harvest



I was bursting with pride when I saw the seventeen! Beautiful hampers that we were able to create to give members of the community some pleasure. I am so grateful to everyone involved, as were the recipients! We have received some lovely thank you messages expressing their appreciation. Huge thanks to everyone.

We also collected donations from the sale of Poppies and the big class delivered a very special Remembrance Day Outdoor Service. The children laid a wreath donated by Councillor Grant. Our young people were a real credit to themselves, their parents and the school. Well done and thanks to them all. Thank you to all those who came along to this.



New Staff Welcome

A very warm welcome to staff who have joined the team at Fisherton:

- **Melanie Mitchell – School Assistant**
- **Lesley Da Silva - School Assistant**

I hope all staff have a very good holiday as once again they faced all the challenges the year has brought us in their professional life head on and have been fabulous as always. They are a great team. I hope all our families enjoy the holidays when they arrive and have the best time possible and let us hope that 2022 brings health, happiness and success to all in our community and beyond!

Parent Council

It was encouraging to see so many new parents taking part in our recent Parent Council Meetings and it's great to see the school growing. Our parent council group continue to work hard in the background, exploring creative ways to support the school, even with the current restrictions still in place. I am extremely grateful to them all for their hard work. They recently raised roughly £675. Well done! Thank you so much to the local businesses, members of the community and all our families and staff for their contributions to this through hampers and raffle prizes etc.



We raised just over 2,000 tokens in the end! We have ordered bags of compost, pots for planting, some trowels and some seeds for growing veg and salad, which will help us to get up and running once our new polytunnel is built.

Thank you to all the parents and member of the community who supported the school by downloading the app and saving tokens with their shopping. We really appreciate your token donations.



Christmas

Christmas is normally an amazing time in schools when we get to share and celebrate the excitement this season can bring. Following the guidance received last week, we are unfortunately unable to offer the full range of activities, but we are working hard to think of alternative ways to try to make this time of year special and of course, fun for everyone in Fisherton.

Christmas festivities Our parties are organised with games and treats as always. The children will 'party in their bubbles' so they should arrive in school dressed for the day ahead. We look forward to welcoming them on their party day in their party outfit.

Christmas jumper day is officially on December 10th this year but I'm delighted for the children to adorn their festive jumpers throughout the month of December. We look forward to seeing the range of jumpers available!

We were so disappointed that we had to cancel the visit to the pantomime, however at a considerable cost, South Ayrshire Council have organised for the Ayr Gaiety Pantomime to be live streamed into school now, so we will enjoy their pantomime when shared. Furthermore, we will be having a Christmas movie morning, where each class would choose a Christmas Movie of their choice to watch in class.

We now have elves all over the school and some are making an awful mess! They are watching how well the children are behaving in their classes....

Xmas Parties

- ❖ Friday 17 December – Big Class P5-7
- ❖ Monday 20 December – EYC Party (pm)
- ❖ Tuesday 21 December – Wee Class P1-4 (pm)

Xmas Activities

- ❖ Monday 20 December – All classes will have *Christmas Activities throughout the day* (fun craft activities & booklets)
- ❖ Tuesday 21 December – EYC & P1234 Outdoor Games (am)
EYC Christmas Activities (pm)
Big Class (P5-7) Forest Den building.
(Hot chocolate & toasting marshmallows am/pm)
- ❖ Wednesday 22 December – whole School PJ day with movies and Christmas Activities

School Closes at 2.30pm
on Wednesday 22
December



Our homework plans will finish at the end of the final full week (17th December) as we know families are busy and often enjoy late shopping etc.

School Lunches / Festive Lunch



The Catering team are continuing to work under quite challenging circumstances and from time to time have problems receiving deliveries of supplies. Where they are unable to receive ingredients for meals planned on menus, alternatives will be provided. My thanks to you for your support and understanding with this in such challenging times. I hope the children enjoyed their Christmas lunch.



Big thanks to the Co-op for the Christmas Activity packs they sent us.

Keeping Safe in School

We are continuing to ensure all procedures are followed in school including hand washing/sanitising and keeping children in class groups as far as possible. We would ask that you continue to remind children at home of the importance of good hand hygiene and following all rules in school which are there to keep us all safe. When at the school, we would remind all parents of the need for 2m social-distancing and would ask that everyone respects this when near other parents or adults in the playground or in the street.

Visitors to the School

Normally we would welcome parents and visitors to the school at any time, but we would ask until further notice that parents who have queries or concerns call the school office on 01292 612049 in the first instance. Queries will then be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Parents should not come to the school without first phoning the school office. This is not how we like to work, but hope you understand the reasons for this as we try to limit the number of adults coming to and from the school and any potential for spread of infection

Covid19- Increase in positive cases



We are hearing of the increase in cases locally. We would strongly encourage all parents to be extra vigilant, and if in any doubt, do not send children into school until a test has been taken and a negative result received. Test and Protect and NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Health Protection team will continue to work with the school and local authority. We will continue to keep all parents and carers informed.

Close Contacts

Where one person in the household has tested positive, we are extremely grateful to parents who have made the decision to isolate any other family members as a precaution. Although the national guidance was slightly different, we are extremely appreciative of the sensible approach being taken by a number of parents so a huge thank you!

What if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19?

If your child develops a fever, cough or loss of taste or smell, or are showing milder symptoms such as a sore throat, headache, upset stomach or cold like symptoms, they should stay off school and book a PCR test. To book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect> or by calling 0800 028 2816.

If your child is symptomatic or their LFD test is positive, other household members should also self-isolate until your child receives their PCR test.

From Saturday 11th December, any cases of Covid are required to isolate for 10 days without exception and the entire household is being advised to isolate, regardless of vaccine status or PCR test result.

- They will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from date of last contact, regardless of vaccination status. The close contact will also be asked to go for a PCR test, however, the result of this test will not affect the requirement to self-isolate and will not shorten the self-isolation period.
- This arrangement will apply to adults and children alike.
- As an added precaution until further notice, household contacts of a direct close contact will also be asked to self-isolate for 10 days, and take a PCR test, a negative result in which will release them early from isolation. Should any child or staff member test positive with the Omicron variant:
 - The local authority will be informed by public health
- A meeting will be convened to discuss and risk assess each case in the initial stages and agree actions
- School close contacts may require to be identified
- Close contacts will require to self-isolate for 10 days as described above for all other positive cases and close contacts (not Omicron variant) the current long-standing arrangements will continue to apply as normal.

Again, I have to say we are so grateful to the parents and carers who are supporting the school in the current extremely challenging circumstances, and for the positive messages we have received in recognition of our approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our young people, staff and parents. Please be assured we are doing our very best for everyone in our school community, and would welcome your continued support to help us achieve this.

Safety

We have been talking to the children about being safe around the school and on the way home. It is important that the children know what arrangements are in place for after school and if they should change during the day then please do not rely on teachers looking at their See saw app to pick up a message from you. **Call the school office please.** Please ensure you park respectfully around our school and avoid school gates.

Some pupils in the big class have enjoyed some bicycle training and got to ride their bike out of school on the road with the training team as long as their bike passed the bike clinic assessment and they wear a helmet. We are now delighted to have a **new bike and scooter shelter** where bikes can be stored for this in the future.



www.lemonaidparenting.co.uk

Family life isn't all child's play is it...

Sign up for often funny, sometimes ranty, but nearly always relatable tales of parenthood from our little Lemon-Aid family.

Between us we have babies, teenagers and every age in between and we're here to share our unfiltered parenting reality with you, warts and all.

Plus look out for handy hacks, great deals and useful offers to save us all time, money and sanity for life in lockdown and beyond.

Scottish Government Free Bus Travel for Under 22s – Survey

Do you have a child aged 5-16, or are you a young person aged 12-21? If so, please complete our short travel survey for a chance to win up to £250 in Love2Shop vouchers.

The Scottish Government will soon be launching the Free Bus Travel Scheme for young people between the ages of 5 and 21. This aims to encourage greener travel patterns and increase opportunities for young people to engage in employment, education and social activities and not be excluded due to travel costs. Transport Scotland will monitor the scheme as it progresses to check on use and impact. The first step is to try and understand current travel patterns so that any changes after the scheme is introduced can be identified.

We would be grateful if parents/carers of younger children (i.e. those aged 5-16), or young people aged 12-21 themselves, could complete this short travel survey. The questionnaire asks about current travel behaviour, and your thoughts about bus travel generally and the free bus travel. This should take no more than 10 minutes to do.

Contact Us: If you have any questions about the work or problems completing the questionnaire, please contact our Project Manager, Elaine Wilson-Smith, at elaine@wellsideresearch.co.uk or on 0131 677 5522.

Scottish Government Transport Analytical Services Division would be grateful if parents/carers and/or children aged 12+: could complete the following survey. The closing date for all responses is **24th January 2022**.

online1.snapsurveys.com/under22travelsurvey



Universal Free School Meals in Primary Schools

Since August 2021 all pupils in P1 to P4 have been entitled to a free school lunch in term time and the roll out of the programme will extend to all P5 pupils in January 2022. All primary pupils will be entitled to a free school lunch when the programme is extended to P6 and P7 pupils in August 2022.

This is a great opportunity for all primary pupils to enjoy a nutritious, freshly cooked school lunch. Further information on menus and school food regulations can be found on the South Ayrshire Council website at <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/24675/School-meals>.

Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service

The Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service, which supports deaf pupils across Ayrshire, will soon launch its own YouTube channel, 'AHIS: Learn BSL'.

Their BSL tutor, Kat Bennett, has made some Christmas videos. With one video, you can learn some BSL signs for Christmas and with the other video, you can learn Jingle Bells in BSL. They hope these can be shared and enjoyed.

<https://youtu.be/21IwmAVCtK8?list=PLEqsIqeHxjy8x3XGj0-tXVWm4ZG1igCkZ> - BSL Christmas

https://youtu.be/rBipiRAa_jM?list=PLEqsIqeHxjy8x3XGj0-tXVWm4ZG1igCkZ - BSL Jingle Bells



Parent Teacher meetings

Thank you to all those who came along to our parents evening. These were very positive on the whole and both parents and staff found them to be extremely useful. We felt very privileged to have an opportunity to speak face to face with parents and welcome your feedback. Please feel free to get in touch to make a phone call appointment with the teacher if you missed this opportunity on parents evening.

Assessments

Staff across all classes have been working hard to gather together assessment information about children's progress, working closely with colleagues to ensure children are supported and challenged in all aspects of their learning. These assessments include reading, spelling, numeracy and mathematics. Members of the senior leadership team have been meeting with individual class teachers over the past few weeks to discuss the progress all children are making. As always, should you have any concerns around your child's learning, please do not hesitate to make contact in the first instance, with your child's class teacher.



Music Tuition

We are delighted to be able to restart Brass tuition for pupils and to welcome our music instructor Mr Scott Walker back to Fisherton. We are pleased that a number of pupils are being provided with the opportunity to learn an instrument, and look forward to hearing them play in the weeks and months ahead.

Pupil Attendance



As you know, we place high importance on good attendance and timekeeping. Where children's attendance at school falls below an acceptable level, we will contact parents to alert you to this. We need to know where your child is for safeguarding reasons. If they are going to be off school **please phone the school office on 01292 612049** to talk to a member of staff and discuss the intended absence and potential return date. Please **do not send an absence message via See Saw** or send a message via one of your other children. If you have not communicated with us by 9.30am, we will try to contact you – sorry for any inconvenience this causes you but it is out of genuine concern, please save us the work and communicate with us directly - most parents are excellent at keeping us informed especially over Covid testing and concerns. A reminder that children with sickness and/or diarrhoea must be off for **48 hours from the last episode**.



Can I please remind parents of the importance of ensuring that all children have a PE kit in school. PE is not optional, and is an important part of the curriculum. As children also participate in PE outdoors as far as possible, it would be helpful to ensure they have joggers and outdoors shoes on PE days. For safety reasons, can we ask that **NO jewellery** is worn on PE days – including earrings. Class teachers will be able to confirm individual PE days if required.

Book week Scotland

We are always keen to encourage our young people to read as much as possible as this can have such a positive impact on all aspects of their learning. As part of Book Week Scotland, our P1 children received a Bookbug Pack and P2 and P3 children received a Read, Write & Count pack to keep at home and use. Read, Write, Count is the Scottish Government initiative which encourages parents, carers and children to share and be involved in literacy and numeracy activities together. These packs have lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Have fun!



Winter Weather



As the winter weather approaches, and mornings are becoming darker and wetter, I would ask that children, particularly on wet mornings arrive at school just in time to enter their classroom at 9.00am. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this. Also can I remind you that breakfast club is available from **8.45am** each morning. Pupils attending breakfast club are not permitted to go to classes until 9am.



Swimming

The big class had a very successful 10week block of swimming and we are very proud of their achievements. We hope to take the wee class and nursery swimming in term four and further details will be issued nearer the time once the swimming pool confirm these with us.

Communication

We use a variety of methods to communicate information and learning with parents and carers. All class teachers use SeeSaw to communicate learning and information with families and we use the Xpressions app to communicate letters and updates as a whole school. Please contact the school office if you have not yet accessed these apps and need assistance. These are really quick and easy ways to keep up to date with school life. You can also contact us directly via our school telephone or email: Tel: 01292 612049



FOODBANK VOUCHERS



Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system.

We know that anyone can find themselves at crisis point for a number of different reasons.

In order to provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

Our foodbank works with a number of different agencies, such as Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors. To find out more about the agencies that hold our vouchers and how you can get help, please [contact us](#).

We now hold foodbank vouchers at the school. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need one.



Thank you to all those who managed to complete the parent survey last term.

Almost all of the responses were happy with the amount of contact they received from the school.

All parents felt their child had settled into school very well.

In response to the question, "Do you have any ideas about what the school can do to better support you and your family or ways to improve the school." There were lots of positive comments with only one suggestion. *"I would like to see more photos of what the children are doing in class."* Staff are trying hard to share photos weekly via Seesaw.

I am delighted with the feedback responses, thanks for your continued support and please get in touch with any other suggestions.

Christmas Card Competition

Primary 5 pupils were invited to participate in a Christmas Card Competition as part of the Maybole Regeneration group who will be taking part in the Shop Fronts project next year. All the cards will form a public exhibition. Nine North Carrick Schools participated and there was a winner per school with an overall winner for the competition. Well done to Elliott Smith who was the winner for Fisherton Primary School!



We were disappointed that we could not hold our usual Christmas Show, however our wonderful and creative pupils came up with the idea of sharing a Christmas Movie with you instead. They put their heads together and made it current and educational. Huge thanks to them and all the staff for putting it all together. We hope you enjoy it!

There is trouble in the skies and on earth!

Can we save Christmas?

Can we save the planet??

Sit back and enjoy our Fisherton fun Christmas movie to find out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-OodC2RD7s>



My sincere thanks to you all for your on-going support and understanding in such challenging times. I hope that you all keep in good health. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Leeanne Campbell
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 1st December- Advent calendars and trees lit up

Friday 10th December - Festive lunch

Friday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day for all

Friday 17th December – Big class Christmas Party

Monday 20 December – EYC Party (pm)

Tuesday 21 December – Wee Class P1-4 (pm)

Wednesday 22nd December- Close for holiday at 2.30pm

Thursday 6th January -School Re-Opens

Monday 24th January - Scottish Poetry Week

11th & 14th February - School Closed

Tuesday 15th February - In-Service Day

Tues 22nd February - P7 Annual Burns Supper Ayr Town Hall TBC

14th March-17th March - P6/7 Dolphin House

16th March - P5 Canoeing

Week beg 21st March - Parents evening and tracking reports issued

Friday 1st April - School Closes for Easter

Tuesday 19th April - School Re-Opens 9.00am